



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes 04/10/2013

### ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Meeting of Arlington Tree Committee

Wednesday, April 10th at 7:30 pm

Location: Town Hall, Auditorium Stage

Attendees: Sally Naish, Patrice Robertie, Patti Muldoon, Corinna Vanderspek, Eliza Burden, Lisa Decker, Mary Ellen Aronow, Elizabeth Pilcher, Ed Trembly

Minutes

(Liz Pilcher)

#### 1. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Minutes of 3/13/13 approved

#### 2. Strategic Plan Update

Sally Naish: The next action will be to present the strategic plan idea to Mike Rademacher when he sits in on the May 16 meeting.

ACTION: Liz Pilcher to make bullet points for presentation; she will remind ATC to review Strategic Plan prior to next meeting.

#### 3. Polldaddy Survey Wrap-Up

Patrice Robertie presented comments from the survey and the committee made recommendations resulting in the following action recommendations:

ACTION: 1) Patrice will consolidate the list into the top ten ideas generated from the poll and posting them on the website; 2) write an educational piece for the Advocate referencing the poll on the web site, encouraging people to plant trees, and providing a list of trees to consider, to be published Thursday April 25 the day before Arbor Day.

#### 4. ATC Website & Social Media

ATC web site: Mary Ellen Aronow and Sally Naish are the only two people who can edit the website. Sally would like to add Patrice Robertie to the list of editors. Patrice agreed to do this. Members of the committee think this is a good time to update / improve the web site architecture and content.

Social Media: Patrice suggests that we consider a Twitter feed.

#### ACTIONS:

Patrice will begin evaluating the web site functionality and content.

Patrice will look into initiating an ATC Twitter feed.

#### 5. Spring Tree Planting Update and Next Steps (Liz will update the action log after the spring tree planting)

The subcommittee met 1PM 4/10/13-Mary Ellen Aronow, Ed Trembly, Eliza Burden, and Liz Pilcher-and reported proceedings of the meeting to the ATC, which developed the following tasks for the spring planting season:

#### Street Tree Planting ACTIONS

Ten or more members of the tree committee wil divy up the 100 sites and pair up to do item #3. Eliza Burden

prepared procedures. Tasks include:

- 1) Get a list of planting locations, emails, and/or phone numbers of homeowners from the DPW
- 2) Ask Adam Kurowski to map the locations to allow for efficient site visits
- 3) ATC members will mark each location (with purple spray paint, recommend tree size (small, medium, large), note the presence or absence of overhead wires, width of the tree strip, and, if location is inappropriate, mark a nearby location (public tree strip only) that is more appropriate. If no other location is available and the private property is a better location, we should say so to the homeowner and suggest they buy a tree
- 4) Either simultaneous with #3 or via email, will contact homeowners to inform when the tree is going to be planted, what is being planted, and to ask if they will water the tree
- 5) Contact homeowners who are not getting a tree this spring and provide estimated date of future planting
- 6) Either simultaneous with #3 or the day of tree planting, distribute care instructions to the homeowner (care instructions from last year are available)
- 7) Request email contact from the homeowner if the homeowner can't care for the tree
- 8) Consider how / whether to attach a new tree notice to each new tree
- 9) Update the record of the new tree location, species, date of planting, etc.
- 10) Liz to post Consolidated List on Google Docs so others can update it.

#### Cub Scouts Tree Planting ACTIONS

- 11) Five trees will be planted by the ATC/Cub Scouts.

ACTION: Mary Ellen Aronow will determine the sites and date. (The town's tree source is under 2 ft of snow at the moment, so 4/26 may be too soon.) Patrice will talk with the Advocate about including a piece on the event. Mary Ellen may use the tree planting video for instruction as part of this event.

Suggestion: Cub Scouts to plant tree in memory of Brian Murray on Arbor Day. Possible to get a tree from Mahoney's for this event.

#### Brian Murray Memorial Tree Planting ACTIONS

Jimmy Dodge and Mike Rademacher are enthusiastic about planting a tree. There is a memorial fund available through the selectmen.

- 12) Sally will talk to Dan Dunn about the availability of funding
- 13) Plaque to be ordered, text to be determined
- 14) Ed Trembly will talk with the family about where they would like to have a tree planted in Brian's memory. Would they like to be present?
- 15) Patrice will talk with the Advocate about an article on the memorial tree planting

#### Possible Locations for Memorial Tree Planting(s)

- DSS lawn (Ed will contact the Mirak's about the DSS front lawn location)
- Robbins Farm park (keeping in mind the tree height issue)
- Water tower
- Lockland Road island
- Town Hall garden (Eliza will call Patsy about planting in the Town Hall garden; this would be permissible only if tree is in keeping with the Olmsted plan for that garden)
- Spy Pond area
- Boys and Girls Club
- Field by Hockey Rink

1. Off-berm planting: Status

Sally Naish discussed planting on private property with Mike. He has reservations about the town losing control of the tree and working on private property.

ACTION: Mike will talk to town counsel about this.

2. EcoFest - Saturday, March 23rd
- Review: Requests, Suggestions. The ATC table was busy for the entire event. The location of the table by the

door was excellent.

- Postcard: Sally presented the postcard to Mike R. He suggested a few minor changes.

ACTION: Liz Pilcher will make suggested changes to the order of bulleted items. We are moving (not deleting) the tree request bullet to the near end of the list. Members of the committee felt that it was important to continue to get townspeople feedback of locations with emails/phones to assist future communications with them and regarding empty tree sites.

3. Trees Report (Tree-related information & updates)

Nothing reported

4. Other Business

- Arbor Day, April 26th-see items above relating to activities planned for Arbor Day.

ACTION: Patrice Robertie will post the tree planting video on YouTube with link to website.

- Sustainable Arlington wants to have a joint meeting with ATC.

ACTION: Discuss at a future date.

- Day in the Life of the Tree Department: Members of the committee would like to shadow the tree department to learn about what a day in their life is like-tree maintenance, tree planting, etc.

ACTION: Sally and Mary Ellen will ask if we can tag along at a distance (we can distribute care instructions to homeowners at the same time). We are seeking to get a better understanding of what they can and can't do and are interested to see what they are faced with on a daily basis so we can figure out how to assist.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 16th, 2013 at 7:30 pm in Selectmen's Hearing Room.